



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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MAN SENTENCED TO 90 MONTHS IN PRISON FOR AGGRAVATED ASSAULT

TUCSON, ARIZONA –The United States Attorneys Office for the District of Arizona, announced that on February 19, 2004, Anthony Wichapa, (D.O.B. 01/06/83) of Tucson, Arizona, was sentenced to 90 months in prison by United States District Judge Frank R. Zapata, in Tucson, Arizona. He was also ordered to pay \$87,000.00 in restitution.

On June 1, 2001, the defendant, a gang member, chose to attend a party in what he considered to be rival gang territory in Sells, Arizona. The defendant brought a knife with him to the party. As the defendant was leaving the party, he stabbed two Indian male children, ages 10 and 11. At the time of the assault, the 10 year old victim was approximately four feet three inches in height, and weighed about 75lbs. The child victims were playing in an area with good overhead lighting. Neither child was armed with a weapon.

The defendant stabbed the 10 year old victim in the neck with a butterfly knife, and stabbed the 11 year old in the back. The defendant claimed that he was "hyped up" because he was in rival gang territory, couldn't clearly see the victims, and considered them a threat. The 10 year

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old victim almost died as a result of the stab wound to his neck and suffers continuing physical problems.

The defendant was indicted by a grand jury on August 30, 2001 for multiple counts of Aggravated Assault. The defendant pled guilty to four counts in the Indictment as part of a plea agreement. The District Court's sentence of 90 months constituted a 19 month upward departure from the normal sentencing guideline range for Aggravated Assault to account for the extreme conduct of the defendant in this case.

The investigation was handled by the F.B.I. with the assistance of the Tohono O'odham Police Department. The prosecution was handled by Sean C. Chapman, Assistant United States Attorneys, District of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona.

CASE NUMBER: CR-01-1019-TUC-FRZ
RELEASE NUMBER: 2004-040

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